

CHRISTIANS MUST STAND

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"I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; In him will I trust. Thou shall not be afraid of the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee." Psa. 91:2,5-7.

I think that we are all aware that we are living in awesome and fearful times. The world around us seems to be deliberately turning away from God. The great standards that made America different are being tossed away, for the foolish fleshly lusts of the unbelievers. Morality is deemed a joke, and the commands of our creator are being ignored. Mankind has determined to push God far from their lives, and live recklessly, ignoring all the results of sin. Ideas like global warming have been totally exposed, as the perpetrators look for another scam to make their money. Godly family limits have been breached, and divorce and fornication are everywhere evident. One wonders how long God will put up with this charade of the evil pursuits of ungodliness. In the past, He destroyed whole nations that thumbed their nose at Him, and chose the path of sin. It could be that we Christians are living during the greatest departure of civilization away from God. There are a lot of things that we cannot correct, but we can pray for our country, and live lives that still point the way to our righteous God. We must continue faithfully standing as an example of all that is right. We must stand as believers in a number of ways I want to share with you. **(1). Stand Single-mindedly:** *"And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation;*

and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand. And if Satan cast out Satan he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?" Matt. 12:25-26 A house divided against itself cannot stand. This is a time for believers to stand together at the voting booth, and daily present a united testimony for the right. Don't be afraid to stick up for truth, and stand together as a church, and body of believers. We are on the right side and on the winning team as time will prove, as the Bible has revealed. Let nothing split us up, but stand arm in arm for righteousness. Your Bible testifies we will come out on top. **(2).**

Stand Unafraid: *"Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come."* Acts 26:22. Paul made it very clear that he would not change from the writings of the prophets. We are instructed to do the same, and not change from the great proven texts of God's Word. Fear not, but stand in the army of the Lord.. Those on God's side have nothing to fear. He is all powerful and will care for His own, so chin up and be not afraid. **(3). Stand In Grace:**

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." Rom. 5:1-2. Standing against the troubles of this life in our own strength will fail. We will stand in Him only as He accepts us in His grace which surrounds us forever as His own. **(4). Stand In Faith:**

"Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith." Rom. 11:20a. What would be the point of saying we believe in God unless we trust Him for His protection. He has promised never to leave us nor forsake us. We are safely cradled in His arms of strength and mercy. What could be better than that. Every promise in the Bible must be received and believed by faith.

Without faith the battles of life cannot be won. **(5). Stand In Liberty:** *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."* Gal. 5:1. We have been made free of the devil's control, and loosed from the power of sin and its penalty. We are the children of the family of God, and nothing can bind us or take away our freedom He purchased for us. The Bible teaches we are free and no longer slaves to this world, as it drifts toward destruction. *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."* John 8:36. Like the early settlers, we have been set free and lasting liberty is ours. **(6). Stand Against The Devil:** *"Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."* Eph. 6:11. I learned in World War II to be equipped, and ready for battle. Satan will use many temptations and deceptions to hinder your life, and keep you from being your best for the Saviour. Make up your mind that peer pressure will not hinder your walk and talk for God. It is hard to predict what kinds of strategy he will use, but in the promised power of God, we know we will win. Never give in but fight the battle with all the strength God will give you. He has beaten the devil and so can we as we do battle in the name of the Lord. **(7). Stand In Truth And Righteousness:** *"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth and having on the breastplate of righteousness."* Eph 6:14. We must live a life of truthfulness for a rusty dull blade will do little in battle. We must stand in His righteousness, for we have none of our own. Pleasing God and glorifying Christ with our life puts us over the top, with His blessing. Avoid subjecting yourself to all error, and live in the midst of truth. Daily submission to the Word of God, along with faithful daily reading will bring our daily orders before us. **(8). Stand In The Will Of God:** *"That ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."* Col. 4:12b. I have always marveled that

the creator has each of us in view, knows about our problems, and stands ready to help us. Obedience to God is foundational to all that we face. Seek His will and listen to His voice and walk in the center of His will. No believer should expect God's blessing if we choose our own way. God will not change His commands to match the whims of the rebellious. To obey His will is always better than to suffer defeat in our own puny wisdom. Stand tall in the blessed will of God and victory will be yours. Shine up your armor and carry out the will of God. **(9). Stand, Not Fearing Future Judgment:** *"For the great day of his wrath is come: and who shall be able to stand."* Rev. 6:17. The book of Revelation pictures the day when all men shall stand before the judgment throne of God. If as a believer, you have confessed your sins, lived by God's rules and walked with Him, great will be your reward. Multitudes shall fall in terror before His presence, because they sought not His deliverance, and squandered His offered goodness to them. We believers will be rewarded for every accomplishment as He dwelt within us. Sinners will be judged for every sin and cast into the lake of fire, to be eternally punished. Our judgment will bring us rewards for all the faithful things we did for the glory of our Saviour. We need not fear the future judgment, and with love will cast our crowns at His feet. **(10). Stand Free In The Face Of Death:** *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."* I Cor. 15:58. We will all face further storms of life, and the battle rages on. We, however, are on the winning side and need not fear the experience of "Absent from the body and present with the Lord." Stand above mans' fear of death, and be faithful for a lifetime. Then we will be able to rejoice for ever and forever, in our eternal bodies, in an eternal Heaven, in the presence of the King of Kings. Praise God!